

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 /048 W

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6173

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS ELAB ICFTU XM

SUBJ ICFTU SPECIAL MISSION TO LATIN AMERICA

1. ICFTU PRESIDENT DONALD MACDONALD, WHO WAS MEMBER OF ICFTU DELEGATION THAT VISITED MEXICO CITY, SAN JOSE, CARACAS, BOGOTA, AND BUENOS AIRES FROM MARCH 11-24, SHARED SOME OF HIS PESSIMISTIC OBSERVATIONS WITH LABATT. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW.

2. ICFTU'S INTER-AMERICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION ORIT IS IN GREATER DISARRAY THAN ICFTU BRUSSELS HQ HAD ASSUMED AND MACDONALD HAD PERSONALLY OBSERVED

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ON PREVIOUS VISIT 11 YEARS AGO. ORIT'S QUARTER

MILLION DOLLAR DEBT, WHILE INSIGNIFICANT BY
EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN STANDARDS, FORCES SERIOUS
CURTAILMENT OF ACTIVITIES I LATIN AMERICAN REGION.
MISSION

FOUND GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG AFFILIATES THAT
ORIT NEEDS TO BE REFORMED, POSSIBLY RESTRUCTURED, THAT
NEW LEADERSHIP WAS REQUIRED, BUT NO AGREEMENT ON SPECIFICS
EXCEPT THAT AFL-CIO AND CLC SHOULD REMAIN WITHIN
REGIONAL ORGANIZATION. MACDONALD IMPLIED THAT HEMISPHERIC
TRADE UNION SOLIDARITY MAY BE LESS IMPORTANT IN EQUATION
THAN POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL REALITIES WHEREBY TWO
NORTH AMERICAN AFFILIATES PLUS MEXICAN CTM ARE STRONGEST

ORGANIZATIONS AND THE ONLY REGULAR DUES CONTRIBUTORS.
GIVEN ORIT'S INADEQUATE RESOURCES, MACDONALD HOPES THAT
SOME OF THE WEALTHIER EUROPEAN ICFTU AFFILIATES,
PARTICULARLY THE GERMANS, DUTCH, SCANDINAVIANS AND
AUSTRIANS, COULD BE PERSUADED TO TAKE LARGER VOLUNTARY
CONTRIBUTIONS TO ORIT PRIOR TO THE OCTOBER ICFTU
CONVENTION. CHOICE OF MEXICO CITY FOR CONVENTION SITE

MIGHT HELP FOCUS ON ORIT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS.

3. ON POSSIBLE ARGENTINA'S CGT AFFILIATION TO ORIT,
MACDONALD FELT OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
RIGHT AND LEFT-WING PERONISTA FACTIONS NEED TO BE
RESOLVED BEFORE ANY DECISION WILL BE REACHED.
PORTER

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